

Description of a new genus and species of Acrididae (Orthoptera) from the Solomon Islands

by
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Buinacris nov. gen.

♂: Size medium, body slender, finely rugosely punctate. Antenna filiform, joints elongate, relatively thick, reaching only a little beyond the hind margin of pronotum. Head a little shorter than the pronotum, deplanate, flattened dorso-ventral. Fastigium of vertex reaching the second antennal joint, in profile sloping or with only the very apex horizontal; more or less triangular, margins narrowed anteriorly, at the apex triangularly incised, with a short shallow median groove, which anteriorly terminates into a round impression more or less distinct. Vertex in profile subconvex, on the sides cribroso-punctate, with dispersed, longitudinal rows of points, the middle smooth. Frontal ridge strongly declive, not protruding between the antennae, distinct throughout and reaching the clypeal margin; margins subparallel or slightly narrowing downwards, margins cribroso-punctate, shallowly sulcate. Frons cribroso-punctate with low irregular ridges, flat; strongly declive. Lateral facial keels absent, there is only an indication of an incomplete sulcus. Along the anterior margin of the eye with a slightly raised margin or ridge, more or less indicated. Eyes prominent sideways, long oval. Infraocular distance about twice as broad as the first antennal joint or a little broader.

Pronotum cylindrical, slightly widened in the metazona, finely punctate; anterior margin slightly produced in advance, convex, in the middle slightly concave or substraight, posterior margin straight or nearly so; median and lateral keels absent; transverse sulci shallowly indicated, submarginal sulcus perceptible on the disc, more distinct on the lateral lobes, first sulcus only on the disc, second and third sulcus both on the disc and on the lobes, second sulcus a little behind the middle, third sulcus far behind the middle, metazona narrow, about one fifth of the length of the prozona. Lateral lobe of pronotum much longer than high, lower margin slightly ascending anteriorly, in the middle concave, anterior margin straight or subconvex, posterior margin subconcave; anterior angle broadly rounded, posterior angle rectangularly rounded. Elytra and wings totally absent.

Meso- and metanotum of meso- and metathorax finely punctate,

together about as long as the pronotum, metanotum somewhat longer than the mesonotum.

Sternum shallowly excavated from below. Prosternal spine formed by an obtuse, low, quadrate tubercle or rugosity near the anterior margin, at the blunt apex of which somewhat rugosely sculptured. Behind the prosternal spine there is a median sulcus on the prosternum. Mesosternal lobes about as long as broad, their inner margin convex, the interspace smaller than the lobe, X-shaped. Metasternal lobes long, contiguous behind the foveolae, on the posterior part of the metasternum on both sides with a longitudinal sulcus, which are connected anteriorly by a transverse impression.

Anterior and median legs relatively thick. Hind femur reaching the top of abdomen, narrow, not attenuated towards the top, more or less flattened, keels obtuse, femur from below finely setose; kneelobes small, obtuse. Hind tibia straight, setose, not widened apically, with a row of 10—14 short inner and a row of 6—7 short outer spines, including an outer apical spine; calcaria short, the inner ones distinctly longer than the outer ones which are very short. Hind tarsus long, overreaching the middle of hind tibia, setose, slender, first and second joint long, second joint a little longer than the first one or of about the same length, third joint distinctly shorter than the second one.

Abdomen widened at the top, sternites flat from below, tergites with a fine median sulcus. Last abdominal tergites (IX and X) broad, widened posteriorly, about twice as broad as long, posterior margin with a long, straight, narrow spine in the middle, directed straight backwards or slightly downwards, a little shorter than the median length of the tergite, with the apex more or less acute. The posterior margin has, on both sides of this spine, a broad, concave, but not deep excavation, which laterally gradually merges into a broadly rounded part, just before the posterior angle, and bears in this place sometimes a small spine. The whole of these tergites is bulb-shaped, there is a complete shallow median sulcus, with on both sides an incomplete, oblique shallow sulcus. Besides this there is at the base the incomplete separation of the IX and X tergite, which separation terminates laterally near the lower margin. This lower margin is nearly straight, the posterior angle rectangularly rounded or acute. The posterior margin of the tergite is, seen in profile, undulated.

Supra analplate more or less membranaceous, perpendicularly placed, broad-triangular, posterior margin in the middle triangularly produced.

Cercus falcate, lamellate, enlarged at the base, near the middle narrower and at this place nearly rectangularly curved inwards; apical part of the cercus widened and at the apex obliquely truncate, terminating into a short spine at the inner side, and the apical margin more or less undulated or rounded. At the base of the cercus on the upper margin with or without a small tuberosity.

Subgenital plate broad, flat from below, a little behind the middle suddenly perpendicularly bent upwards with the posterior margin

broadly truncate or somewhat produced in the middle. ♀ unknown.
Genotype : *Buinacris forcipata* nov. spec.

This genus is at once differentiated from all other Catantopinae by the long spine-like projection of the last tergite, which makes a very peculiar impression. About the biology nothing is known. The concave excavation of the sternum and the flat surface of the sternites indicates that they are living on plants, where they can press the body against the stems, and not on the ground.

Key to the species.

- I. Head from above and pronotum brown. Antennae strongly annulated with yellow joints. Interocular distance broad, fastigium of vertex broad, with the lateral margins convex. Hind margin of the Xth tergite with a black spine on both sides, above the insertion of the cercus. Spine of the Xth tergite from below at the base deeply cut (Fig. 2). *forcipata* nov. spec.
- II. Head from above and pronotum olivaceous green. Antennae only with a few yellow joints. Interocular distance less broad, fastigium of vertex narrower, lateral margins slightly concave. Hind margin of the Xth tergite without black spine. Spine of the Xth tergite from below not cut. *carpentieri* nov. spec.

Buinacris forcipata nov. spec.

♂ : Fastigium of vertex with the lateral margins narrowing anteriorly, margins slightly convex. Interocular distance about three times as broad as the basal antennal joint.

General coloration brown. Antenna blackish brown, strongly annulated with orange-yellow joints. Head brown, vertex from above on both sides with a dark brown stripe. Frons and part of cheeks black or brownish black. Pronotum brown, sulci darker coloured ; upper part of lateral lobe with some irregular olivaceous spots, some of them bordered with a dark stripe. Meso- and metanotum brown. Prosternum yellowish brown, top of prosternal tubercle black. Insertion of the fore coxae black. Meso- and metasternum yellowish brown, in the middle with a broad bluish black, longitudinal band. Abdomen brown, sternites bluish black, except the last abdominal segment which is more yellowish brown. Hind margin of the Xth tergite with a blackish spine on both sides, the margin itself bordered with blackish brown, median spine yellowish brown from above, black at the sides, deeply cut from below at the base. Cercus yellowish, with a small black tubercle at the base from above ; the outer margin bordered with blackish



Fig. 1. *Buinacris forcipata* nov. gen. nov. sp. ♂ seen from the side; hind tarsus broken.



Fig. 2. *Buinacris forcipata* nov. gen. n. spec. ♂ seen from above; hind tarsus broken.

Fig. 3. Top of abdomen of *Buinacris forcipata* nov. gen. e. spec., seen from above.

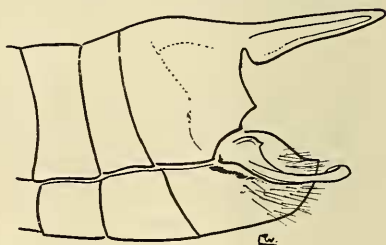
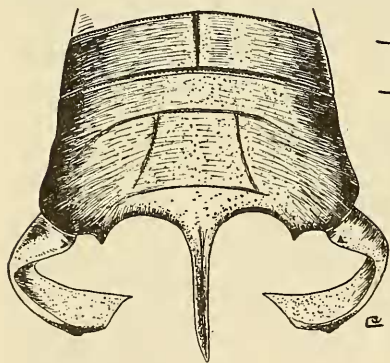


Fig. 4. Top of abdomen of *Buinacris forcipata* nov. gen. e. spec., seen from the side.

brown from about the base to the apex. Subgenital plate yellowish brown with an arcuate dark brown, transverse setose band in the middle. Anterior and median legs brownish yellow, with dark irregular longitudinal stripes or small spots. Hind femur yellowish green, lower area bluish, inner kneelobe dark brown. Hind tibia red, the very base yellowish with a dark stripe from the inner side; spines yellowish red with black tips. Hind tarsus with the first joint dark reddish from above, yellowish from below, the second and third joints olivaceous brown. Figs. 1—4.

Length of body	28	♂ mm.
" " pronotum	4,5	"
" " meso- and metanotum	5	"
" " hind femur	14	"
" " hind tibia	13	"
" " hind tarsus	9	"

Locality : Solomon Isl., Bougainville (Buin). One male. Only the type is known. Type coll. mea.

Buinacris carpentieri nov. spec.¹⁾

♂ : Fastigium of vertex with the lateral margins narrowing anteriorly, margins slightly concave. Interocular distance not quite twice as broad as the basal antennal joint.

Genaral coloration yellowish brown. Head olivaceous green from above, along the upper margin of the eye lighter coloured ; frons black, lower part of clypeus and the labrum yellow. Antenna black, annulated with only 3 yellow joints. Pronotum olivaceous green, upper part of lateral lobe with some irregular lighter coloured spots. Meso- and metanotum yellowish. Episternum of mesothorax olivaceous green. Sternum bluish olivaceous, meso- and metasternum yellowish on both sides. Abdomen yellowish, from below with the last sternites bluish olivaceous. Hind margin of the Xth tergite narrowly margined with blackish brown, without distinct black spine ; the median spine not cut at the base from below, yellowish, from below darker coloured. Cercus yellowish, along the sides darker coloured, the apex margined with dark brown. Subgenital plate olivaceous green, with a transverse, setose, dark band in the middle, the part of the subgenital plate behind this band is dark brown. Anterior and median legs yellowish with some dark stripes. Hind femur yellow ; the lower area at the apex olivaceous green ; inner kneelobe with a brown spot. Hind tibia red, spines with black tips. Hind tarsus with the first and second joint red, third joint yellowish.

Length of body	25	♂ mm.
" " antenna	12	"
" " pronotum	4,5	"
" " meso- and metanotum	4	"
" " hind femur	13,5	"
" " hind tibia	12	"
" " hind tarsus	8	"

Locality : Solomon Isl., Bougainville (Buin). One male. Only the type is known. Type coll. mea.

¹⁾ Named after my friend Dr. Fritz CARPENTIER from Liège, who had the generosity to present me both specimens for my collection.